ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Belford Rural Sanitary District

for the Year ending 31st December, 1926.

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1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

1. **Area** (acres) 39,619.
2. **Population** (census 1921) 4959.
3. **Population** (estimated 1926) 4870.
4. **Number of Inhabited Houses** (1921) 1220.
5. **Number of Families or Seperate Occupiers** (1921). 1220.
6. **Rateable Value** (1926) £33,501.
7. **Sum Represented by a Penny Rate** (1926) £139.
8. **Social Conditions, etc.**

The inhabitants are chiefly occupied in the pursuit of agricultural work and sea-fishing. In the vicinity of Belford whin-stone quarrying is carried on. The inhabitants are all engaged in healthy occupations, for the most part out of doors.

9. **Vital Statistics** (1926).

		Total.	M.	F.	
Births	Legitimate	58	33	25	Birth Rate 12·52 per 1,000.
	Illegitimate	3	2	1	
Deaths		59	26	33	Death Rate 12·11 per 1,000.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth — From Sepsis ... Nil; From other causes Nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate	4.
Illegitimate	0.
Total	4.

Rate per 1000 births = 65.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

" " Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil.

2. General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsided by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

A.—(1.) **Fever.**—Nil.

(2.) **Smallpox.**—The District Council are joint owners with Alnwick Urban and Rural Councils of a Smallpox Hospital near Alnwick, where there is accommodation for 12 cases.

B.—(1.) **Tuberculosis.**—(a) Wooley Sanatorium owned by the County Council, where there is accommodation for 144 cases—71 males, 24 females, 47 children.

(b) Stannington Sanatorium owned by the County Council where there are 38 beds for children up to the age of 16 years.

(2.) **Maternity.**—Nil.

(3.) **Children.**—Nil.

(4.) **Other.**—The Hospital in the Poor Law Institution at Belford is utilized for the relief of the sick poor, There is accommodation for 16 patients in addition to a maternity ward.

C.—Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children in the area is provided by the Poor Law Institution in Belford.

D.—Ambulance Facilities for Infectious, Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.

The District Council do not possess an Ambulance. In the case of necessity arising special arrangements for the removal of a patient would require to be made.

E.—Clinics and Treatment Centres.—There are no Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, School Clinics and Tuberculosis Dispensaries in the District. Cases of Venereal Disease are treated in the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

F.—Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

1. The Medical Officer of Health.
2. The Sanitary Inspector.
3. The Clerk.

The Sanitary Inspector also acts as Surveyor.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Clerk are part-time officers.

Contributions under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants are made to the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

The Medical Officer of Health is a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery of the University of Edinburgh. The Sanitary Inspector is an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

G.—Professional Nursing in the Home.—(a) General (b) Infectious Diseases. This is provided in the district by the Belford and Beadnell Nursing Associations, whose members comprise a large proportion of those resident in the district.

The Rural District Council does not contribute any financial aid to Nursing Associations in the district. The Guardians however subscribe to the Newcastle Infirmary and have provisional arrangements with the local Nursing Associations with regard to poor law cases.

H.—Midwives.—There are no practising Midwives in the district.

J.—Chemical Work.—Chemical Work has been carried out as the necessity has arisen, by the Public Analyst in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

K.—Legislation in Force.

1. Prevention of Nuisances in the Keeping of Animals, 28th September, 1892.
2. Common Lodging Houses, 18th December, 1893.
3. Slaughter Houses, 28th September, 1893.
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., 12th January, 1899.
5. New Streets and Buildings, 4th July, 1906.
6. Regulations under Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops Order, 1885, were adopted in 1887.
7. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted 11th June, 1891.
8. Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, adopted June, 1891.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

During the year a new 3-inch water main has been laid for a distance of 320 yards, from what is known as the Hospital Spring as far as the new farm buildings on the south side of Belford. In the event of developments in the Belford Station Road area, an excellent supply of water will be available by further extension of this main. The conditions regarding water supply throughout the district remain substantially as reported in detail last year. It has not been necessary to take any action in respect of any form of contamination.

Rivers and Streams.

No action has been taken in regard to pollution of streams.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Existing arrangements regarding sewerage and drainage have been maintained, and no extensions have been carried out other than those necessitated by the erection of new buildings.

Closet Accommodation.

No action for general conversion of closet accommodation has been undertaken, but some progress has been made at Seahouses, where old insanitary privies and ashpits have been abolished at the Harbour Front and Craster Square, and increased accommodation provided, 15 w.c.s in all. In many parts of the district the water carriage system is not practicable, but wherever adequate water and sewerage facilities exist conversions should be carried out. During recent years 108 w.c.s have been substituted for privies, and the approximate numbers of each type of closet now are:—Privy ashpits, 736; pail closets, 63; water closets, 355.

Scavenging.

No alteration has been made in the scavenging arrangements, which are carried out by contract in Belford and North Sunderland, and elsewhere privately. It is frequently necessary to point out the need for more frequent cleansing of ashpits, etc., and this is a matter demanding more careful attention.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

See Pages 6, 9, 10 and 11.

Smoke Abatement.

No action has been required in this connection, there being no congested areas with industrial works leading to smoke nuisance.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Common Lodging House Byelaws are in force, but there are at present no premises of this description in the district. Byelaws are also in force regarding tents, vans, sheds, etc., but no action has been necessary in regard thereto.

Schools.

The conditions regarding the nine public elementary schools in the area remain as reported last year, and attention is again drawn to Belford School, which falls far below modern requirements and demands the serious consideration of the Authorities responsible. The sanitary conditions are generally fairly satisfactory, and adequate water supplies are available, except at Ellingham and Newham, where the water is to carry considerable distances.

It has not been necessary to close any of the schools in the area during the year on account of infectious diseases.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses Erected during the Year:—

(*a*) Total (including numbers given separately under (*b*)) 17
(*b*) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—
(i) By the Local Authority ... ... Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons 6

Unfit Dwelling Houses.

INSPECTION.

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 98
2. Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 52
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... Nil
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation 37

Remedy of Defects Without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 16

Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
(*a*) By Owners ... ... Nil
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
(*a*) By Owners ... ... Nil
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil

(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) Milk Supply.

Under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, registration forms were issued to milk suppliers in the district, and the number at present on the Register is 22. These have been kept under observation, and notices regarding limewashing and cleanliness have received attention. Though the structural arrangements in the smaller cowsheds are not up to standard in many cases, attention is again drawn to the need for more cleanliness in the buildings and surroundings and to the cows before milking operations. Grade A milk is supplied from two farms, Newlands and Preston.

(*b*) Meat, Etc.

Slaughterhouses, 6 in number, and meat shops, have been inspected periodically, and with the exception of requests for cleansing and limewashing no action has been necessary.

Bakehouses, of which there are five in the district, have been found to be well kept.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally.

The District during 1926 has been comparatively free from notifiable infectious disease, 27 cases in all being notified, of which 10 were scarlet fever. Scarlet fever occurred in the south-eastern part of the district. There were cases of the disease in the adjacent part of the adjoining Authority, which, together with those in the Belford district, comprised a small epidemic. This epidemic occurred in the Autumn and quickly subsided.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by the County Council at the College of Medicine Laboratory, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Cases of infectious disease are all treated in the home, there being no fever hospital in the district.

The Medical Officer of Health keeps a stock of Diphtheria and Tetanus Antitoxin, and prompt use of this is made in suitable cases.

The Schick and Dick tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively have not been made use of.

No revaccinations nor privacy vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox) Regulations, 1917.

Cases of non-notifiable acute infectious disease have not been numerous during the year. Influenza occurred in a mild form in the early months of the year, and Mumps was prevalent amongst children in the Autumn.

There are no facilities available in the area for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings. Infected premises, and articles which have been exposed to infection, are disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector by means of Vaporised Formaldehyde.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year, 1926.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Small-Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	10	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	6	0	2
Tuberculosis :—			
Pulmonary	4	0	4
Non-Pulmonary	1	0	1
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Chickenpox	5	0	0

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1926.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'y		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'y	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 years								
1 ,,								
5 ,,	1		1				1	
10 ,,		1				1		
15 ,,								
20 ,,	2				2	1		
25 ,,								
35 ,,								
45 ,,								
55 ,,								
65 ,, and upwards								
Totals	3	1	1	0	2	2	1	0

There are no non-notified Tuberculosis deaths. The efficiency of notification of tuberculosis in the district is good.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1825.

No action has been taken under these regulations relating to tuberculosis employees in the milk trade during 1926.

Public Health Act 1925. Section 62.

No action has been taken by the Council under this section during 1926.

D. T. McDONALD, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.),
Medical Officer of Health.

Housing.	Number of Inspections during year	Number of Defects or Contrav'ns of Byelaws	No. remedied after letter or interview	Number of Statutory Notices served.	In progress or being dealt with	Legal Proceedings.
Structural Defects	98	24	24			
Dampness		5	5			
Unfit for Habitation		6	6			
Defective Spouting		2	2			
Nuisances						
Water Supply.						
Insufficient	3	3	3			
Unsatisfactry	4	4	4			
Drainage.						
Foul	19	8	8			
Untrapped or Defective		7	5		2	
Insufficient		4	4			
Sanitary Conveniences.						
Structural Defects	47	4	4			
Insufficient		36	18		18	
Foul		7	7			
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	22	5	5			
Slaughter Houses	24	5	5			
Tents, Vans, etc.	9	9	9			
Workshops and Workplaces ...	69	7	7			
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	45	45	45			
Ashpits improperly used	5	25	25			
Offensive accumulations	2 7	7	6		1	
Premises Disinfected	14					
Petrol Stores	28					
Total ...	414	213	192	Nil.	21	Nil.

Summary of Work effected.

After Letter or Interview.

Sanitary Conveniences.

Privies abolished ...	8	Pail Closets abolished ...	Nil.
Privies repaired ...	5	Water Closets provided ..	18
Privy Ashpits abolished	5	Water Closets repaired ...	5
Privy Ashpits roofed & repaired	3	Sanitary Bins provided ...	14

Drainage.

New Drains constructed	18	Old Gullies replaced ...	3
Drains repaired or reconstructed	5	Scullery Sinks provided...	9
Additional Gullies provided	6	Yards repaired or reconstructed	6

Water Supply.

Sources closed or discontinued	Nil.	No. of Houses affected ...	Nil
Improved Supply ...	7	No. of Houses affected ...	7

Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

1926.

Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

INSPECTION :—		Written Notice.	Prosecutions.
Factories	6		
Workshops	63	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces			
Total	69		

DEFECTS FOUND :—	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	6	6
Other Nuisances	1	1
Total	7	7

The following is the list of Plans approved during the year, relating to new domestic buildings :—

House and shop at Bamburgh for Mr. Mather.
Two houses at North Sunderland (1 Subsidy).
Additions to Alexandra House, Beadnell.
House at Beadnell (F. Gregory).
Additions to Miss Craster's house, Beadnell.
Bungalow on North Bank, Belford (Subsidy).
Two houses at Fleetham (Subsidy).
Two houses at Seahouses, Main Road (Subsidy).
One house at Benthall, Beadnell (Subsidy).
One house, North Sunderland (J. Tully).
Two houses at St. Aidans, Seahouses (T. B. Gregory).

THOS. W. DODD,

A. R. San. I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Form A.

Amount of Shipping entering the District during the Year 1926.

		Number.	Tonnage.	Number Inspected. By the Medical Officer of Health.	Number Inspected. By the Inspector of Nuisances.	Number reported to be defective.	Number of Orders Issued.
Foreign	Steamers	1	201				
	Motor	Nil.					
	Sailing	Nil.					
	Fishing	Nil.					
Total Foreign		1	201				
Coastwise	Steamers	4	474				
	Motor	0					
	Sailing	0					
	Fishing	40(ap.)					
Total Coastwise		44	474				
Total Foreign & Coastwise		45	675	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Form B.

Rats destroyed in 1926.—Nil.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST PLAGUE.

Form C.

Particulars relatiug to Vessels "Infected" or Suspected," or from Infected Ports.—Nil.

Form D.

Vessels (other than those dealt with in Form C), subjected to Measures of Rat Destruction.—Nil.

Table X.

Birth-Rate, Death-Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1926.

Provisional figures. The Rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a Population estimated to the middle of 1926, while those for the Towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1925. The Mortality Rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales but only to Civilians as regards London and the groups of Towns.

———	Birth-Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-Rate per 1,000 Population.									Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practicioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	17·8	11·6	0·01	0·00	0·09	0·02	0·10	0·07	0·22	0·47	8·7	70	91·8	7·2	1·0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18·2	11·6	0·01	0·00	0·12	0·02	0·10	0·10	0·22	0·43	11·8	73	92·0	7·5	0·5
157 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted population 20,000-50,000)	17·6	10·6	0·01	0·00	0·07	0·02	0·11	0·06	0·23	0·40	6·6	67	92·6	6·3	1·1
London	17·1	11·6	0·01	0·00	0·20	0·02	0·05	0·12	0·17	0·48	11·8	64	90·6	9·4	0·0